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CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD, INC., INTERIOR SYSTEMS, INC. AND WILLIAM MARCELLINO AGREE TO CIVIL SETTLEMENT TOTALING \$8.4 MILLION FOR ALLEGED UNDERPAYMENT OF POSTAGE

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced today that Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. (C&W), Interior Systems, Inc. (ISI), and William Marcellino, Vice-President of ISI, have agreed to pay the United States and the U.S. Postal Service \$8,400,000 to settle a civil action filed by the United States which alleged the defendants violated the False Claims Act by failing to pay the U.S. Postal Service for postage owed on mailings.

The United States' suit claimed that the defendants underpaid the postage due in connection with a mail presort business they operated in Dallas from 1997 through 2000. According to the complaint, the presort business was run at various times by C&W and a joint venture between ISI and Cushman & Wakefield of Michigan, Inc., an affiliate of C&W. The United States' suit alleged that from at least 1998 to 2000, the defendants' presort business underpaid postage due on mail it presented for mailing by periodically withholding Postage Statements, which were relied upon by the Postal Service to determine the amount of mail submitted and the corresponding postage due.

Previously, the manager of the Presort Operation, Ralph W. Ebert, was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas for his role in the scheme. He was convicted on two counts of mail fraud and sentenced in October 2000 to 66 months incarceration.

The case was investigated by U. S. Postal Inspection Service and prosecuted criminally and civilly by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Dallas, Texas, and the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, with the assistance of the Postal Services' Southwest Law Office.

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